THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As a result of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, it has been decided to phase out the subsidy on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG in the next three to five years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps

†600. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG and Petrol Pump agencies allotted in various States of the country during the last three years district-wise; and

(b) the targets fixed for the fresh allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps in various States of the country during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have allotted 1018 LPG distributorships and 915 Retail Outlets in various States of the country during the last three years.

(b) Allotment of LPG agencies and Retail Outlets is a continuous process and it is not possible to indicate a fixed target for the fresh allotment of LPG agencies and Retail Outlets during a particular year.

Guidelines on selection of dealers

601. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets for petroleum products in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have introduced a revised set of guidelines for selection of such dealers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.